

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jack Banta, Co-Chair; Lydia Martinez, Co-chair; Eneida Martinez-Walker, Richard DeJesus

**OTHER:** Mark Anastasi, City Attorney; Onte' Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Banta called the meeting to order at 6:15. A quorum was present.

**47-13  
MOTION TO RESCIND/RECONSIDER ITEM #47-13 ON 9/16/14**

Chairman Banta pointed out that item #47-13 had already been passed in a prior meeting and that this meeting was to approve item as amended.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOTIONED TO RESCIND ITEM 47-13 FROM THE PRIOR APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez asked what would be amended. Chairman Banta said that they were amending the motion to include some information in the item that had not been included in the prior proposal. Attorney Anastasi came forwards with a copy of a document that had been in front of the committee in the prior meeting but had not been officially included in the resolution as well as some clarification of the legal language. Attorney Anastasi asked Mr. Johnson to confirm that all of the revised language had gone through the Mayor's office. Mr. Johnson confirmed that the Mayor had been present and seen the revised document.

There was a quick review of the revised document by the committee.

Attorney Anastasi reviewed the changes stating that there had been 'housekeeping issues' that had been taken care of.

Council Member Martinez asked where the funding would be obtained from for the professional review study mentioned in the document. Attorney Anastasi stated that the funds would come from places other than the City and likely seek funding from a Federal or State grant or some charitable third-party group. Council Member Martinez then stated that she held further problems with the group because it did not state how many council members, community people, and the like would be included in the group. Attorney Anastasi pointed out that there would be at least two council members from the affected district. Council Member Martinez voiced further

concerns about the number stating that she felt it was not clear and could, potentially, get out of control.

Council Member Martinez also voiced concerns about the Mayor making decisions and that it would remove the Committee's influence over the proposed group. Mr. Johnson and Attorney Anastasi explained in further detail how the group would be handled and pointed out that the proposed group would only be an advisory committee and would be held responsible to the Council as well as a review of the various processes that the group would have to work through to perform any activity.

Further discussion on the number of council members who would be included in the group followed.

Council Member Martinez asked further questions whether one of the departments mentioned in the revised document was a State department and had it confirmed that it was. Further questions as to the number of people on the proposed group were raised by Council Member Martinez. It was restated that the proposed group would only have the ability to gather information for the Council. Further discussion on the number of members for the proposed group followed.

Council Member Martinez stated that she did not feel comfortable with the proposed numbers and method of deciding upon the numbers and would abstain from a vote on the matter. It was restated that this would be an information gathering group and would hold no power.

Co-Chair Banta asked for a member to make a motion to make an action on item #47-13 for amendment by substituting the proposed document in accordance with the discussions, clarifications, and changes that had happened in the meeting, would be sent to the chair, and then be sent to the rest of the committee.

Mr. Johnson then addressed Council Member Martinez and asked if she would be comfortable if the number of council members in the proposed group would be two people for a group of six or under or four people for a group of six or more. Council Member Martinez voiced her concerns on what would happen if members of the proposed group did not appear for meetings. Further discussion on the number of council members who would be in the proposed group followed.

Attorney Anastasi suggested that the group have two Council Members for a group of six or less, three for a group of ten or less, and four for a group of fifteen or less. Council Member Martinez voiced further concerns about how much power the group would have.

Attorney Anastasi then reviewed the proposed changes for the committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO AMEND ITEM 47-13 AS DISCUSSED WITHIN THE MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 47-13 AS AMENDED.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ian A. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services.